

Significant changes have taken place in provincial programmes in the past few years. New or revised legislation or new procedures in a number of provinces have laid the foundation for improved standards of service and administration, and reappraisal of services is continuing.

All provinces are giving consideration to the need for integrated planning on behalf of older citizens. In recent years, a number have increased their capital or maintenance grants to municipalities and to voluntary groups for homes for the aged and are also assisting in the construction of low-rental housing projects.

The main efforts in child welfare have been directed toward improvement of standards and greater flexibility of services, with particular emphasis on preventive case-work services for children in their own homes, development of specialized children's institutions and the finding of adoption homes for all children in need of them.

A number of voluntary agencies also contribute to community welfare, including the welfare of families and children and of groups with special needs, such as the aged, recent immigrants, youth groups, and released prisoners. Family-welfare agencies or combined family and child-welfare agencies in urban centres, for example, offer case-work services to families in need of counselling on such problems as marital relations, parent-child relations and family budgeting. Counselling and recreational services for older or retired people are being developed by many agencies, and child and youth organizations with recreational and character-building programmes offer group participation in physical education, camping, the development of special skills, and other opportunities for healthful activity. Welfare councils and community-planning councils contribute to the planning and co-ordinating of local welfare services.

Fitness and recreation are encouraged and promoted under the federal Fitness and Amateur Sport Act of 1961, under which grants are made to national organizations to assist national and international aspects of the programme and to the provinces to develop and extend community effort.

RP/A